

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 30, 33, 34, and 37-43 to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 1-29, 31, and 32 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 30 and 33-43 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the conditional allowance of claims 32-34. The Examiner objected to claims 32-34 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants have amended base claim 30 to incorporate the limitations from allowable claim 32 and intervening claim 31. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Claims 33 and 34 have been rewritten in independent form as required by the Examiner to incorporate the limitations of base claim 30 and intervening claim 31. Therefore, the allowance of amended claims 33 and 34 is respectfully requested.

Claims 35 and 36 depend from amended claim 30 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 30. Therefore, the allowance of claims 35 and 36 is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the same limitations that the Examiner stated were allowable for claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 37 is respectfully requested.

Claims 38 and 40 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 30. Therefore, the allowance of amended claims 38 and 40 is respectfully requested.

Claims 39 and 41 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 37. Therefore, the allowance of amended claims 39 and 41 is respectfully requested.

Claims 42 and 43 have been amended to incorporate the same limitations that the Examiner stated were allowable for claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of amended claims 42 and 43 is respectfully requested.

3.) Examiner Objections - Information Disclosure Statement

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the information disclosure statement filed on January 22, 2006 stating that the form submitted was not proper. At the time that the information disclosure statement was filed, the Applicants were participants in the USPTO's Beta-test of the electronic filing program. On March 3, 2006, the Applicants received the following notification from the EFS Team regarding the submission of information disclosure statements by Beta participants:

Dear Beta Participants:

Between December 1, 2005 and January 28, 2006, the EFS Team identified an issue with documents that were coming in via EFS-Web with the document description of Application Data Sheet or Information Disclosure Statement. The issue is internal in that when an Examiner prints out the IDS, the IDS would reverse image, therefore not allowing for a signature. If an Examiner contacts you asking for a new IDS, please have the Examiner contact EFSBeta@uspto.gov to resolve.

The EFS-Team is currently printing all the ADS's/IDS's that came in during this time period, but it's been a long and arduous process. The process and rescanning should be completed by the end of March.

Thank you for your time and participation in the Beta program of EFS-Web.

EFS Team

The Applicants have reviewed the PAIR file and it appears that the Information Disclosure Statement has been re-scanned by the EFS-Team and is now in proper form. Therefore, no further action by the Applicant is required. The Examiner's approval of the information disclosure statement as timely filed as of January 22, 2006 is respectfully requested.

4.) Examiner Objections - Claims

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 38 and 39 due to informalities. The Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the

Examiner to correct the acronym MPLS. The withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

5.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

In paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 37, 41 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ericsson (WO 99/16266 A). As noted above, the Applicants have amended claims 37, 41, and 43 to place them in condition for allowance by incorporating the allowable limitations from claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of claims 37, 41, and 43 is respectfully requested.

6.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 30, 31, 37, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Boakye (US 6,175,576). Claim 31 has been canceled and incorporated into base claim 30. As noted above, the Applicants have amended claims 30, 37, 42 and 43 to place them in condition for allowance by incorporating the allowable limitations from claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of claims 30, 37, 42 and 43 is respectfully requested.

6.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraphs 7-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boakye in view of "An Architecture for Differentiated Services" to Blake (Blake). As noted above, claims 35 and 36 depend from amended claim 30, which has been placed in condition for allowance by incorporating the allowable limitations from claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of claims 35 and 36 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ericsson in view of Mikkonen (US 6,587,457). As noted above, claim 39 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 37. Claim 37 has been placed in condition for allowance by incorporating the allowable limitations from claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 39 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 38 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boakye in view of Mikkonen. As noted above, claim 38 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 30. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 38 is respectfully requested.

Claim 39 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 37. Claim 37 has been placed in condition for allowance by incorporating the allowable limitations from claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 39 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boakye in view of RFC 2005: Resource ReSerVation Protocol (RSVP) to Braden, et al. (Braden). As noted above, claim 40 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 30. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 40 is respectfully requested.

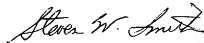
Claim 41 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 37. Claim 37 has been placed in condition for allowance by incorporating the allowable limitations from claim 32. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 41 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 30 and 33-43.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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